

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Original) A safety arrangement for use in a motor vehicle, the safety arrangement incorporating a blocking unit and a reversible drive to drive the blocking unit, in response to a first signal, from an initial position to an operative position, the drive being associated with a timing arrangement to control the drive to return the blocking unit to the initial position after a pre-determined period of time, the arrangement incorporating an energy absorbing element operative to absorb energy as the blocking unit is moved from the operative position by an applied force, wherein the energy absorbing element is an inflatable element that is inflated in response to a second signal.

8. (Original) A safety arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein a pre-crash sensor is provided and the first drive signal is generated in response to the sensing of a potential crash by the pre-crash sensor.

9. (Previously Presented) A safety arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the reversible drive incorporates a rack.

10. (Previously Presented) A safety arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the reversible drive incorporates a piston and cylinder unit.
11. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim 7 wherein the blocking element incorporates a contact sensor to supply a signal when the blocking element is moved into contact with an object to stop the blocking unit from being driven further towards the operative position.
12. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim [[6]] 7 wherein a crash sensor is provided and the second signal is generated in response to [[the]] sensing of a crash by the crash sensor.
13. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim 12 wherein the crash sensor indicates [[the]] a degree of severity of [[a]] the crash.
14. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim [[1]] 7 wherein the safety arrangement provides front protection for a seat occupant in the event of a crash.
15. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim [[1]] 7 wherein [[the]] a seat is provided with a sensor to sense a parameter.

16. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim 15 wherein the sensor is able to detect the presence and weight of an occupant [[of]] in the seat.

17. (Previously Presented) A safety arrangement according to Claim 15 wherein the sensor is a seat position sensor, able to sense the position of the seat in the direction of the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

18. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim [[6]] 7 wherein the inflatable element is inflated by a multistage gas generator, the gas generator being controlled by a controller responsive to sensed parameters.

19. (Currently Amended) A safety arrangement according to Claim [[1]] 7 wherein the energy absorbing element is part of the drive.

20. (NEW) A safety device for use in a motor vehicle, the safety device comprising:
a blocking unit;
a driving unit for moving the blocking unit from an initial position to an operative position in response to a first signal, the driving unit returning the blocking unit to the initial position after a predetermined time;
a contact sensor attached to the blocking unit providing a second signal upon contact with an occupant of the motor vehicle, the second signal causing the driving unit to cease movement towards the operative position; and

an inflatable safety device inflating in response to a third signal indicating a vehicle crash.

21. (NEW) The safety device of Claim 20 wherein the first signal is generated in response to sensing of a potential crash by a pre-crash sensor.

22. (NEW) The safety device of Claim 20 wherein the reversible drive incorporates one of a rack unit and a piston/cylinder unit.

23. (NEW) The safety device of Claim 20 wherein the third signal is generated by a crash sensor indicating a degree of severity of the vehicle crash.

24. (NEW) The safety device of Claim 20 further comprising a seat sensor operable to detect at least one of a presence of the occupant in a vehicle seat, a weight of the occupant in the vehicle seat, and a position of the vehicle seat along a longitudinal axis of the motor vehicle.

25. (NEW) The safety device of Claim 20 wherein the inflatable safety device is inflated by a multistage gas generator, the gas generator being controlled by a controller responsive to sensed parameters.